



October 2011

Volume 2 Issue 8



Kyrgyz Republic President Roza Otunbayeva speaks during the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at the Transit Center at Manas Sept. 11.



Col. James Jacobson shows Kyrgyz Republic President Roza Otunbayeva storyboards representing the Sept. 11, 2001, timeline of events after the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony.

## Kyrgyz president remembers 9/11 at Transit Center

Kyrgyz Republic President Roza Otunbayeva joined Mr. Larry Memmott, U.S. Embassy Bishkek Charge d'Affaires, Col. James Jacobson, Transit Center at Manas director, and dignitaries from 14 other countries here in commemorating the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11.

"Today the Kyrgyz Republic, like the entire world, shares the sorrow with our friends, the American people, in connection with the loss of almost 3,000 people of different nationalities, different origins and religions," said Otunbayeva. "Citizens of 90 countries died with Americans (that day). This tragedy consolidated the international community and brought (them) together even stronger in countering terrorism as a common enemy."

Otunbayeva spoke to the crowd of hundreds about the importance of the partnership between Kyrgyzstan and the United States.

"We consider the allocation of the (Transit Center) as an important contribution of the Kyrgyz Republic in common efforts of the global community in fighting against terrorism," the president said. "Because there is not a single country secured from new global threats and challenges, such as international terrorism and religious extremism."

The Transit Center, formerly known as Ganci Air Base, opened in December 2001. In the past 10 years, the name has changed, but the around-the-clock missions of aerial refueling, airlift, onward movement of troops, and strengthening the partnership with the Kyrgyz Republic remain.

"There is no doubt that the 10-year existence of the Transit Center considerably contributed in strengthening the security in Afghanistan and the region as a whole," Otunbayeva said.



(Above) Airmen from the 376th Air Expeditionary Wing Honor Guard salute during a 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at the Transit Center at Manas.

(Below) Col. James Jacobson, Mr. Larry Memmott, President Roza Otunbayeva and Mr. Emirbek Kaptagaev, present a wreath at the Pete Ganci memorial at the Transit Center at Manas, Kyrgyzstan, Sept. 11.





Col. James Jacobson shows a map to Mamat Nararov during an aerial refueling orientation flight on a KC-135 over the Kyrgyz Republic Sept. 2. Nararov is the Kyrgyz Republic Ministry of Transportation Civil Aviation Department chief.



A KC-135 Stratotanker refuels a C-17 Globemaster III during a familiarization flight for members of the Kyrgyz government over Kyrgyzstan Sept. 17. This high-level flight underpins Air Forces Central Command and U.S. Central Command goals for sustained partnership building and cultivating enduring relationships. The aircraft and crews are assigned to the Transit Center at Manas.

## Kyrgyz officials witness aerial refueling



Kyrgyz Republic Col. Abdila-Akin Ataev looks out a KC-135 Stratotanker window during an orientation flight Sept. 2. Ataev is the Kyrgyz Air Navigation military sector chief.

Airmen from the 22nd Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron flew 20 Kyrgyz Republic distinguished guests on a KC-135 Stratotanker aerial refueling orientation flight over Kyrgyzstan Sept. 2.

The flight showcased aerial procedures during the refueling of a C-17 Globemaster III to key personnel from the country's Ministry of Transportation and Communication, the Civil Aviation Agency, the Manas International Airport, and the Kyrgyz Air Navigation military sector.

"The flight allowed the Transit Center to smartly show how it puts the right asset to the right place at the right time, a critical task we certainly could not do without our crucial MIA/KAN partners," said Col. Brian Newberry, 376th Expeditionary Operations Group commander.

This was the first time MIA President Erik Shaidinov flew on an American military aircraft and the first time he observed in-flight refueling.

"It was a fairytale, like what you see in films," he said. "I had heard about (aerial refueling), but today I got to see it with my own eyes. It is good you show us these types of things. If you didn't show us, we would still have questions about what is taking place. Thank you for showing it to us."

Prior to the flight the guests received a briefing so they could learn about the missions performed at the Transit Center, which include air refueling, airlift, onward movement of troops and building relationships.

"Our MIA/KAN teammates are integral to us accomplishing our mission around the clock, so letting them see one of our core missions, air refueling, is the right thing to do," Newberry said.

This was the second time Col. Abdila-Akin Ataev, KAN military sector chief, has flown on a KC-135 refueling mission.

"The flight was a good thing for all of the people who got to come out, such as the leadership for MIA and KAN," said Ataev, who graduated pilot school in 1984 and has flown the L-29, L-39, Mig-21 and helicopters. "They had a good time."





Staff Sgt. Amber Grimes serenades a Kurenkeyev College of Music student during a “Top Cover” performance at the school in Bishkek Sept. 21.

(Top right) Staff Sgt. BJ Richard shows a child how to play the drums after a “Top Cover” performance at the Kurenkeyev College of Music in Bishkek Sept. 21.



Staff Sgt. Shane Spanier watches a Kurenkeyev College of Music student play a melody on his keyboard after a Top Cover performance at the school in Bishkek Sept. 21.

## ‘Top Cover’ rocks with Kyrgyz students

“Top Cover,” the current U.S. Air Forces Central Command band, proved once again that music transcends international borders as they rocked a packed auditorium at the Kurenkeyev College of Music in Bishkek Sept. 21.

From the first song to the last of their nearly two-hour performance, the seven-member rock band captivated the college students. They sang along, danced, clapped, waved their arms and recorded segments of the show with cell phones.



Staff Sgt. Amber Grimes signs a T-shirt for a Kurenkeyev College of Music student in Bishkek Sept. 21.

(Top left) Airman 1st Class Phil Runge watches a Kurenkeyev College of Music student test out his guitar after a “Top Cover” performance at the school in Bishkek Sept. 21.



(Above) Tech. Sgt. Nicole Brown teaches proper English enunciation to a soldier from Koi Tash during a noncommissioned officer school language lab Aug. 11.

(Left) Staff Sgt. Ramon Memita (center) helps a soldier from Koi Tash practice English during a language lab led by Senior Airman Michael Abrash Aug. 11.

# American, Kyrgyz servicemembers partner to enhance communication

Airmen from the 376th Air Expeditionary Wing and Kyrgyz soldiers gather twice a month to practice foreign language skills. For the soldiers from Koi Tash speaking English offers a chance to exercise a skill they learned in school. For Airmen deployed to the Transit Center, it's a chance to learn the language of their host country, one most of them had never encountered before arriving here.

"The Koi Tash Noncommissioned Officer School language lab is an offshoot of the larger initiative to build an enduring partnership between the school's enlisted cadre' and the enlisted corps of the Transit Center," said Chief Master Sgt. James Lucas, the former 376th AEW command chief.

The biweekly language lab was established in June as a means to increase communication between those involved in the program on a deliberately scheduled basis.

"Our initial engagements with the school were primarily focused on social activities and joint humanitarian projects in and around Koi Tash," Lucas said. "We now have the language lab underway and there are plans to expand into other professional development topics."

(Top right) Senior Master Sgt. James Wadas explains what the diamond in his rank means to a soldier from Koi Tash during a noncommissioned officer school language lab Aug. 11.

(Bottom right) Airmen from the Transit Center at Manas and Kyrgyz Republic soldiers review vocabulary flash cards during a noncommissioned officer language lab at Koi Tash Aug. 11.







(Above) Staff Sgt. Paul Pest helps a Kyrgyz Republic soldier Sgt. Orozobek uulu Nurbek and fellow explosive ordnance disposal technician don a bomb suit during a bilateral information exchange at the Transit Center at Manas Aug. 19.

(Below) Tech. Sgt. Mack Saterfield (green bomb suit) and a Kyrgyz Republic soldier Sgt. Orozobek uulu Nurbek X-ray a suspicious package during a bilateral information exchange scenario at the Transit Center at Manas Aug. 19. The servicemembers are both explosive ordnance disposal technicians.



Emergency response Airmen help Kyrgyz Maj. Zapira Shamuratori, the Ministry of Emergency Services chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosives squadron chief, don a chemical protection suit Aug. 19.

## US, Kyrgyz military partner for bilateral information exchange

It starts with a phone call — "Exercise, exercise, exercise ... there is a suspicious package at the post office."

The call sets off a standard chain of events.

But, when the call was received by first responders here Aug. 19 the response was not typical. American explosive ordnance disposal and chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high yield-explosives response technicians arrived on scene with their Kyrgyz counterparts.

As an American EOD Airman donned his bomb suit so did a Kyrgyz Republic soldier. The duo approached the suspicious package together to determine its contents. After determining the package was not explosive but contained a white powdery substance, a joint CBRNE team was sent in to evaluate.

The suspicious package response was the climax of a daylong information exchange between U.S. and Kyrgyz Republic experts in the EOD and CBRNE fields.

"This was a multi-unit integrated Transit Center effort," said Maj. Christopher Johnson, Theater Security Cooperation Military Cooperation branch chief. "The purpose of the CBRNE and EOD military-to-military information exchange is to familiarize Kyrgyz experts from the Ministry of Emergency Situations, Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Interior Forces, with Air Force CBRNE and EOD tactics, techniques and procedures."

This is not the first time American and Kyrgyz EOD and CBRNE responders participated in this type of information exchange. Kyrgyz Maj. Zapira Shamuratori, Ministry of Emergency Services CBRNE squadron chief, was part of a similar event at the Transit Center several years ago.

"In 2005, it was not this modern," she said. "The technology got better, the response times got better and more squadrons were called in to respond this time. These exercises are important in case there is ever a big catastrophe or emergency; we can both work side by side and jointly take care of the situation."

## Transit Center at Manas economic impact as of Sept. 30, 2011

<b>Direct Expenditures</b>	<b>FY08 Actual</b>	<b>FY09 Actual</b>	<b>FY10 Actual</b>	<b>FY11 YTD</b>
Payments to Kyrgyz Govt - Dip Note	\$17,400,000	\$26,620,000	\$60,000,000	\$60,000,000
Payments to Manas International Airport	\$22,426,354	\$22,999,039		
Lease, Passes, and Utilities			\$4,029,091	\$7,817,140
Aircraft Landing, Parking, Service Fees			\$21,157,571	\$19,460,590
Contributions to Airport Improvements	\$131,000	\$30,600,000	\$0	\$0
Contributions to Kyrgyz Aeronavigation	\$130,500	\$0	\$0	\$30,000,000
Contract Payments	\$35,351,310	\$24,601,908		
Commodities (Furniture/Sports equip/ parts/supplies)			\$28,214,794	\$15,138,286
Construction (Buildings/renovations/ road repairs)			\$5,229,757	\$5,243,344
Services (Grounds/refuse/custodial/ vehicle lease)			\$9,345,966	\$10,535,241
Leases (non-MIA)	\$83,726	\$81,562	\$66,596	\$120,698
Programmatic Humanitarian Assistance		\$1,700,000	\$2,273,488	\$823,634
<b>Subtotal Direct Expenditures</b>	<b>\$75,522,890</b>	<b>\$106,602,509</b>	<b>\$130,317,263</b>	<b>\$149,138,933</b>
<b>Indirect Expenditures</b>				
Estimated US Military local spending	\$946,000	\$1,037,530	\$1,161,743	\$1,427,396
<b>Subtotal Indirect Expenditures</b>	<b>\$946,000</b>	<b>\$1,037,530</b>	<b>\$1,161,743</b>	<b>\$1,427,396</b>
<b>Total Economic Impact</b>	<b>\$76,468,890</b>	<b>\$107,640,039</b>	<b>\$131,479,006</b>	<b>\$150,566,329</b>



## Airmen deliver supplies to Kyrgyz school

(Above) Lt. Col. Byran Cessna offers a pencil to a child at the Kamyshanovaskoya Public School Sept. 5. Airmen from the Transit Center at Manas traveled to the school to deliver school supplies and interact with the students. The supplies collected by the key spouses and their extended families included crayons, markers, colored pencils, pens, pencils, erasers and notebooks.

(Left) A student from Kamyshanovaskoya Public School examines a new box of crayons Sept. 5.